

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /071 W

----- 105051

R 081616Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2430

INFO SECDEF

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMFAIRMED

COMFAIRMEDREP

CHJUSMAGG

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 856

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: HOMEPORTING PHASE II

REFS: (A) ATHENS 0332

(B) STATE 009123

(C) STATE 252138

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GOG IS DRAWING PARELLELISM BETWEEN SOUDA AB AND HOMEPORTING PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS. IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERENT IMPACT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ON GREEKS INTERESTS, PARALLELISM MAY IN FACT BE SLOWING DOWN NEGOTIATIONS OF BOTH. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT REGARDLESS OF HOMEPORTING, WE WANT SOUDA.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPRISED BY INTERESTED US NAVY COMMANDS OF MULTIPLICITY OF ACTIONS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE CARRIER AND HOSPITAL SHIP IN SUMMER 1974. IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING
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REQUIRED FACILITIES IS A PREREQUISITE TO MANY OF THESE

ACTIONS. WITH PASSAGE OF EVERY WEEK IT SEEMS THAT BACKLOG OF UNACCOMPLISHED ACTIONS GROWS LARGER AND LIKELIHOOD DIMINISHES THAT PHASE II CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ORDERLY FASHION WITHIN CURRENTLY-ESTABLISHED TIME FRAME. THE POSSIBILITY OF REQUIREMENT FOR DELAY OF PHASE II THUS APPEARS FROM PERSPECTIVE OF ATHENS TO BE CHANGING RAPIDLY INTO A PROBABILITY.

3. AS NOTED REFTTEL, EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED TO FONOFF USEFUL GENERAL PAPER ON HOMEPORTING PHASE II. THIS WILL HELP TO EDUCATE FONOFF NEGOTIATORS AS WELL AS PROVIDING BASIC INPUT TO GOG REVIEW NOW UNDERWAY. IN ADDITION, COMFAIRMEDREP HAS PROVIDED TO EMBASSY DRAFT AGREEMENTS ON MEGARA BAY AND ELEFSIS AB FOR TRANSMITTAL TO FONOFF AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION OF PHYSICAL SITES ASSOCIATED WITH PHASE II.

4. EMBASSY IS RELUCTANT TO INTRODUCE INTO GREEK CONSIDERATION TWO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRING TRANSLATION AND CONSIDERABLE STAFFING IF USG MIGHT CONCLUDE SOON THAT DELAYS INHERENT IN CURRENT SITUATION MIGHT REQUIRE A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT IN IMPLEMENTAION OF PHASE II. THIS RELUCTANCE IS REINFORCED BY KNOWLEDGE THAT IN MOST CASES SAME OFFICERS WILL BE INVOLVED IN STAFFING BOTH SOUDA AB NEGOTIATION AND THOSE ON MEGARA BAY AND ELEFSIS AB.

5. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE SETTLING OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT WHICH APPEARS TO BE IMPORTANT TO CONSOLIDATE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE LIGHT OF POSSIBLE FUTURE CONTINGENCY, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM DEPARTMENT ASSURANCE THAT IN SPITE OF DELAYS ALREADY EXPERIENCED AND APPRECIABLE ADDITIONAL DELAYS LIKELY TO ENSUE FROM SOUDA AB NEGOTIATION, PHASE II WILL NOT BE POSTPONED BEYOND SUMMER 1974. WITHOUT SUCH ASSURANCE, EMBASSY BELIEVES ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED AT THIS TIME.
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